

# **Power and Role of International Organizations and International Law in the 21st Century**

**NUMBER OF CREDITS:** 7 ECTS/3 U.S. Credits

**CLASS TIME:** Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:00 and 4:15 – 5:45

**AIMS OF THE COURSE:** Students will gain a deep insight into cooperation at the international level, with focus on international (intergovernmental) organizations (IOs), their origins, powers and responsibilities. Moreover, fundamentals of public (and partly private) international law and the legal background of the IOs will be presented.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCES:** The multidisciplinary course covers legal studies, political sciences and history of international relationship. A thorough knowledge of the most important international organizations, their legal backgrounds, functioning and processes will be provided together with a set of theoretical and methodical tools that enable to analyze and examine selected case studies. Those are going to cover real life situations in which IOs took part.

**TEACHING METHODS:** The course will be lead in the form of interactive lecture, supported by Powerpoint presentation and if allowed, by multimedia. Furthermore, lecture notes will be published after each session, together with a summary of the main points covered. (A set of questions for the final exam will be based on these summary points.)

Students will be prepared for a proactive participation, since each class session commences with a brief resume of the most important points covered previously, followed by a group work. Throughout the course, four case studies will be examined and quality involvement and cooperation is expected.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS (WEIGH):**

Active lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation/ attendance	25 %
Mid-term test	0 %
Essay paper	20 %
Presentation (midterm)	25 %
Final test	30 %
Total – maximum	100 %

## **COURSE CONTENT:**

Historical Background I. – a) From the First Geneva Convention to the League of Nations

Historical Background II. – b) League of Nations in Detail. Forming of

Intergovernmental Organizations during the WWII. Atlantic Charter

Fundamentals of Modern International Law with Focus on the International Organizations

United Nations I. – Legal Foundation of the UN, System of the Organization and Procedures

United Nations II. - Role of the UN in the Pursuit of Human Rights Worldwide. Peacekeeping operations, their overview and results.

International Court of Justice and UN Office of Legal Affairs

Role of the UNICEF and analysis of the Convention on the Rights of Child. The protection of children's rights under international law in general. Summary of international family and marital law

International Labour Organization. International Labour Standards. Impact of globalization of the labour market on the legislative trends

Introduction into immigration law. Differences in its implementation in selected countries

New level of international law- law of supranational character. Explanation of the basics of EU-law, history of its development, coexistence with the national laws  
Is European law for everyone? How to understand and use European law in everyday life

### **COURSE CONTENT IN DETAILS:**

At the beginning of the course, a general overview of the cooperation at the international level will be provided, followed by explanation and examination of its historical origins, and last but not least, an analysis of the failure of the system of international cooperation between WWI and WWII. Afterwards, we will address theoretical and methodological issues in order to gain a comprehensive set of tools for analysis and understanding of the specific intergovernmental organizations.

Especially, a considerable amount of time will be spent on fundamentals of public international law and the legal background of the IO's. Digging deeper into the analysis of the individual IO's will start with UN, its system of organization, processes and the role of the organization in the pursuit of peace and humanity. Thus, we will discuss mandate for the UN peacekeeping operations, we will give their overview and analyze the outcomes. Afterwards, a separate lecture will be devoted to the International Court of Justice. Then, the UNICEF and legal protection of children's rights on international level, with a short diversion towards the international family and marital law in general will come into our focus.

Subsequently, we inquire into the field of ILO and international labour law, followed by introduction into the basics of immigration law and its differences in selected countries. Next we turn our attention to the European law and in an informative way, we will touch its system, history and functioning. In conclusion we will seek to demonstrate implementation of European law on day-to day basis and its coexistence with national laws. The course will be closed with a wrap-up session and an analytical discussion on the role and effectiveness of IO's and international law in the global world.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Essay: Students are expected to write an academic essay on a topic of their own choice in the length of 5 standard pages, selected topic must be course-related and approved by the course instructor. Instead of a midterm test, students shall prepare a short presentation on a given theme of length determined by the actual size of the class.

Exam: Examination takes form of a written test, divided into three parts: 1) multiple choice 2) short definitions 3) analysis of the simplified case study.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

ISBN	Title	Authors	Year
978-0-521-76834-4	International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice.	Hurd, Ian	2010
140519765	Understanding International Law.	Henderson Conway, H.	2010
DOI: <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/00208180276019987">http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/00208180276019987</a>	Democracy from the Outside-In? International Organizations and Democratization	Pevehouse, John, C.	2002